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YOSHIFUMI TANIMOTO

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04/08/2003

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EXAMINER

MITCHELL, MONICA J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/428,836

Applicant(s)

TANIMOTO, YOSHIFUMI

Examiner

Monica J. Mitchell

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Objections*

1. Claim 4 is objected to because of the following informalities: In claim 4, line 6, the word "lease" should be changed to "least". Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-3 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takimoto (U.S. Patent Number 6,202,092).

Regarding claim 1, Takimoto discloses a network printer which is connected to a network and performs printing based on printing request from clients connected to the network, the network printer comprising: designating means (Figure 1, reference element 22b) for designating at least one client who is allowed to use the networked printer (column 4, lines 13-30) or at least on job to be performed by the network printer (column 3, lines 59 to column 4, line 6) and printing means (Figure 1, reference element 22e) for accepting only printing request from a client or clients designated by the

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designating means (column 4, lines 4-6) and for performing printing according to the accepted printing request (column 4, lines 4-6).

Regarding claim 2, Takimoto discloses the network printer further including means for spooling printing request from non-designated clients or for non-designated jobs until designation by the designation means is removed (column 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 3, Takimoto discloses the network printer further including means for refusing printing request from non-designated clients or for non-designated jobs (column 3, line 63 to column 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 12, Takimoto discloses a method of printing, comprising the steps of: providing a printer connected to a network for performing printing based on printing request sent from clients connected to the network (column 4, lines 31-44), designating at least one client who is allowed to use the printer (column 4, lines 13-30), accepting only printing request from a client or clients designated by the designating means (column 3, line 59 to column 4, line 6), and performing printing according to the accepted printing request (column 4, lines 4-6).

Regarding claim 13, Takimoto discloses the method further including step of spooling printing request from non-designated clients until designation by the designation means is removed (column 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 14, Takimoto discloses the method further including step of refusing printing request from non-designated clients (column 3, line 63 to column 4, line 3).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 4-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takimoto (U.S. Patent Number 6,202,092) and further in view of Reilly (U.S. Patent Number 6,502,147).

Regarding claim 4, Takimoto discloses a network printer which is connected to a network and performs printing based on printing request from clients also connected to the network, the network printer comprising: a plurality of paper supply means (column 6, lines 3-6; inherently teaches that the printer provides the user a choice of paper to print on), and printing means (Figure 1, reference element 22e) for accepting only printing request from the client(s) or job(s) designated by the designating means (column 4, lines 4-6) and for performing printing according to the accepted printing request(s) using the respective dedicated paper supply means (column 4, lines 4-6).

However, Takimoto fails to disclose a designating means for designating at least one client or job for at least one of the plurality of paper supply means such that one paper supply means is dedicated for one client or job.

Reilly discloses a designating means for designating at least one client or job for at least one of the plurality of paper supply means such that one paper supply means is dedicated for one client or job (column 9, lines 23-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the inventions were made to include the teachings of Reilly with the teachings of Takimoto to arbitrate the printing of the print jobs corresponding to the job information stored in the print queue.

Regarding claim 5, Takimoto and Reilly disclose the network printer, and Takimoto further teaches wherein the plurality of paper supply means includes a manual feed tray (column 5, line 3-7).

Regarding claim 6, Takimoto and Reilly disclose the network printer, and Takimoto further teaches further including means for spooling printing request from non-designated clients or for non-designated jobs until designation by the designation means is removed (column 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 7, Takimoto and Reilly disclose the network printer, and Takimoto further teaches further including means for refusing printing request from non-designated clients or for non-designated jobs (column 3, line 63 to column 4, line 3).

Regarding claim 8, Takimoto discloses a network printer which is connected to a network and performs printing based on printing request from clients connected to the network, the network printer comprising: a plurality of paper supply means which are capable of holding different types of paper, the type including at least paper size and paper alignment (column 6, lines 3-6; inherently teaches that the printer provides the user a choice of paper to print on), and printing means (Figure 1, reference element 22e) for accepting only printing request from the client(s) or job(s) designated by the designating means (column 4, lines 4-6) and for performing printing according to

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the accepted printing request(s) using the respective dedicated paper supply means (column 4, lines 4-6).

However, Takimoto fails to disclose a designating means for designating at least one client or job for at least one of the plurality of paper supply means such that one paper supply means is dedicated for one client or job.

Reilly discloses a designating means for designating at least one client or job for at least one of the plurality of paper supply means such that one paper supply means is dedicated for one client or job (column 9, lines 23-54).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the inventions were made to include the teachings of Reilly with the teachings of Takimoto to arbitrate the printing of the print jobs corresponding to the job information stored in the print queue.

Regarding claim 9, Takimoto and Reilly disclose the network printer, and Takimoto further teaches wherein the plurality of paper supply means includes a manual feed tray (column 5, line 3-7).

Regarding claim 10, Takimoto and Reilly disclose the network printer, and Takimoto further teaches further including means for spooling printing request from non-designated clients or for non-designated jobs until designation by the designation means is removed (column 7, lines 1-7).

Regarding claim 11, Takimoto and Reilly disclose the network printer, and Takimoto further teaches further including means for refusing printing request from non-designated clients or for non-designated jobs (column 3, line 63 to column 4, line 3).

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***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shibusawa et al teaches a printer managing apparatus including a physical printer managing unit for managing the outputting of the attribute information of individual printers and controlling the outputting of a job to the physical printers.


Uda et al teaches a printer server connectable to a plurality of printers that has discrimination means for selecting a printer capable of completing print job.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Monica J. Mitchell whose telephone number is 703-306-3430. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Alt. Fri. Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 703-305-4712. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9313 for regular communications and 703-872-9313 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4750.

mjm  
March 31, 2003

  
EDWARD COLES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
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